

“Introduction.”

Asma and Taylor

Introduction

Following this introduction are collections of selections from a series of ten interviews that I, Taylor, completed with my collaborator and friend, Asma, between the months of November 2018 and February 2019.

They are the focal point of an honors project that I am completing alongside my anthropology degree from Kenyon College. This is a collaborative, multimedia ethnography, which means that Asma and I have worked together on every aspect of this project. She decided the themes of each collection and is the narrator of her story.

I transcribed and did the audio editing required to combine these clips together, and I also wrote and narrated the introductions and transitions within each collection. Asma and I both annotated the transcripts you are reading.

These recordings take place in a variety of settings. As such, you will hear ambient noise from a Tim Horton's, a public library, and Asma's home. I hope that, instead of being an inconvenience, they help you further immerse yourself in Asma's story, in all its loops and turns.

If you would like to learn more about this project or are curious about my anthropological "field notes" as we worked to create this ethnography, you can find them on the other tabs on this page. However, they are not necessary for understanding Asma's story—*her* story is what is most important. It is what makes any of my reactions worth listening to, and any analysis worth absorbing. But it is also important on its own. Because you don't have to be an anthropologist to seek unique experiences and perspectives.

Finally, Asma is not my collaborator's real name, but for the sake of privacy, she requested that we change the names and remove the more important dates from the final versions. We hope you find strength and hope in this story, as we have.

[Let Asma say a few words about herself and her anonymity and her goals for this project.]